

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 remain pending in this application. Claims 2-10 and 25-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 11-24 under consideration are rejected.

Objection to Priority

The Examiner objected to the Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) – (d), because the present application designates Takayoshi Togino as the sole inventor, while the priority applications identify Kokichi Kenno as the sole inventor. In response, the Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the attached Rule 132 Declaration by the present inventor Takayoshi Togino, which Declaration clearly indicates that the name "Kokichi Kenno" identified on the English translation of the priority Japanese applications is an incorrect translation, and that the present inventor, Takayoshi Togino, is the sole inventor of the claimed priority applications.

Requirement for New Declaration

In view of the attached Rule 132 Declaration, Applicant respectfully submits that Takayoshi Togino is the sole inventor of the claimed subject matter in the present application, and no new declaration is required.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(f)

In view of the attached Rule 132 Declaration, Applicant respectfully submits that Takayoshi Togino is the sole inventor of the claimed subject matter in the present application, and therefore this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Based on Morita et al.

Claims 1 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0133191 A1) in view of Nakazawa et al. (JP 06-230738).

Morita et al. has an effective U.S. filing date of October 16, 2002. In view of the attached Rule 132 Declaration, it is clear that the present application is entitled to priority of

Japanese application JP2002206860 filed on July, 16, 2002, which is prior to the effective U.S. filing date of Morita et al. Therefore, the Morita et al. reference is not a valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or any other paragraph of §102. Since the Nakazawa et al. reference clearly does not teach or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 11-13, the present obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

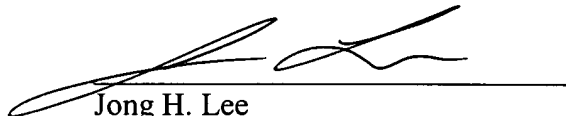
In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11-24 under consideration are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney regarding any issues pertaining to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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